

Gazing Critically at Age-friendly Communities

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Components of Ongoing Ontario AFC Outreach Strategy

1. Continue base support for AFC Planning Outreach Initiative as related to building awareness, increasing access and promoting AFC capacity in Ontario: April 2017- March 2019
2. Expand Outreach Initiative's ability to respond to specific needs of rural and small urban communities and specific populations (Francophone, Indigenous, and immigrant): Jan 2017-March 2019
3. Publication of three addendums to the current "Finding the Right Fit" Guide tailored to the needs of Indigenous, Rural/Small, and immigrant communities.
4. Expand current AFC capacity building support through creation of a new Mentoring Program



Introduction

- I. Age-friendly communities (AFCs) as a concept
- II. Aging in Canada's largest cities
- III. Discussion and Conclusions



Background

- In 2014, “Age-friendly communities: Age-friendly for whom? Project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC).
- Co-principal investigators: Professor Ryan Walker, University of Saskatchewan and Professor Kathi Wilson, University of Toronto, Mississauga
- Creation of the Geographies of Aging Projects Laboratory (GAPLab) – <http://www.queensu.ca/geographyandplanning/gaplab/>
- Atlas of the Aging Population of Canada



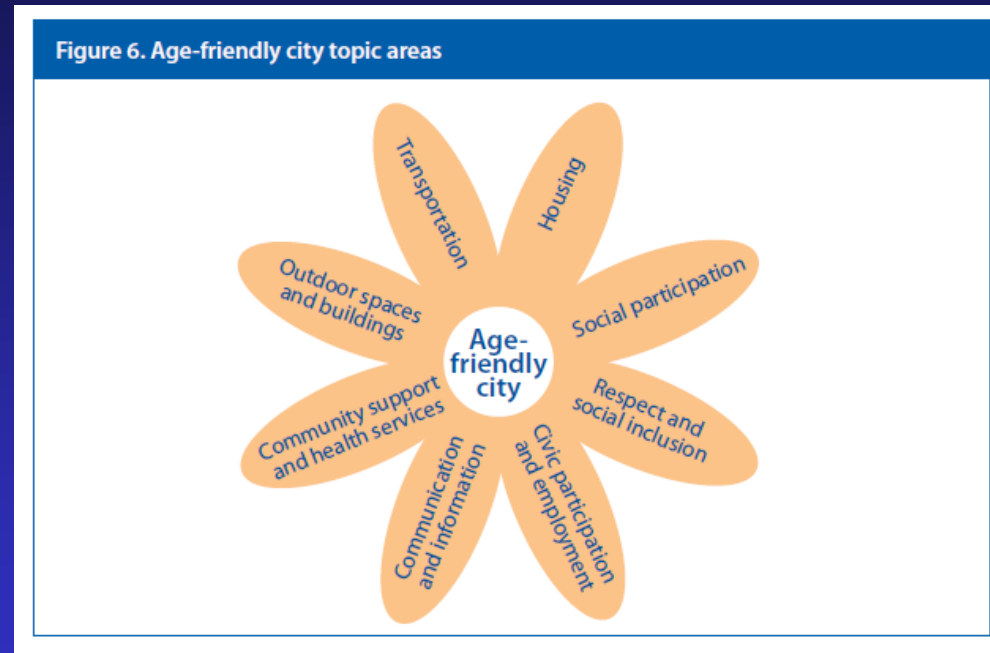
Learning Objectives

- To understand the importance of including the voices of the older population in all discussions about how to make communities age-friendly.
- To understand the data in our communities and priority areas of focus that are emerging as trends across the country.
- To understand variations in the nature of aging across Canada and how data profiles can help us learn more about older adults in our own communities, and geographic trends across our province and country.



AFC as a Concept

- WHO traces the idea of AFCs as a concept to UN Resolution A/RES/46/91 which adopted the principles of independence, participation, care, self-fulfilment and dignity for older persons in 1991.
- WHO (2007) Global Age-friendly Cities: A Guide – is the “bible” of AFCs as a concept and as a movement around the world



Source: WHO (2007) Global Age-friendly cities: A Guide. Geneva: The Author.



AFC as a Concept

- In Canada as of March 2016:

- British Columbia – 69
- Alberta – 6
- Saskatchewan – 10
- Manitoba – 99
- Ontario – 63
- Quebec - 413
- New Brunswick – 2
- Nova Scotia – 15
- Prince Edward Island – 15
- Newfoundland and Labrador - 19

What does an age-friendly community look like?

In an age-friendly community:

- outdoor areas and public buildings are pleasant, safe and accessible.
- housing is affordable, safe and well designed for seniors.
- roads and walkways are accessible and kept in good shape.
- public transportation is affordable and accessible.
- neighbourhoods are safe.
- relationships are respectful.
- health and community support services are available.
- opportunities for seniors to be socially active exist.
- seniors can take part in volunteer, political and employment positions.
- information is easy to find and easy to understand.

(Footnotes removed, Underlining by presenter)

Source: <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/seniors-aines/afc-caa-eng.php>



Demographics

	<i>Total population (2011 Census)</i>	<i>Population 65 and over</i>	<i>% 65 and over</i>	<i>% 65 + from a visible minority (CCHS 2012)</i>
St. John's, NL	106,172	15,607	14.7%	1.5
Charlottetown, PEI	34,562	5,150	14.9%	0.0
Halifax, NS	390,096	51,103	13.1%	1.4
Moncton, NB	69,074	10,776	15.6%	1.2
Fredericton, NB	56,224	8,827	15.7%	1.2
Quebec City, QC	516,622	94,025	18.2%	0.2
Montreal, QC	1,649,519	250,727	15.2%	15.5
Ottawa, ON	883,391	116,608	13.2%	13.1
Toronto, ON	2,615,060	376,569	14.4%	29.5
Winnipeg, MB	663,617	95,561	14.4%	12.2
Saskatoon, SK	222,189	28,440	12.8%	4.9
Calgary, AB	1,096,833	109,683	10.0%	19.3
Edmonton, AB	812,201	95,028	11.7%	14.1
Vancouver, BC	603,502	82,076	13.6%	50.7
Victoria, BC	80,017	14,723	18.4%	6.7



Health

	Percent 65 and Over in Poor Health (CCHS 2012)		
	Self-Perceived Mental Health	Self-Perceived Health	Participation and Activity Limitation
	<i>Fair or Poor Mental Health</i>	<i>Fair or Poor Health</i>	<i>Activity Limited (sometimes/often)</i>
St. John's, NL	5.6	27.7	54.4
Charlottetown, PEI	9.0	26.0	63.9
Halifax, NS	2.9	22.6	56.3
Moncton, NB	6.7	26.2	58.5
Fredericton, NB	11.8	22.7	60.0
Quebec City, QC	2.3	20.3	49.5
Montreal, QC	4.4	19.9	55.0
Ottawa, ON	5.2	21.3	56.6
Toronto, ON	6.4	21.8	56.7
Winnipeg, MB	7.3	19.1	62.3
Saskatoon, SK	3.2	28.8	62.3
Calgary, AB	5.3	18.9	59.5
Edmonton, AB	8.0	19.2	60.0
Vancouver, BC	16.7	32.8	51.3
Victoria, BC	4.7	21.2	67.0



Poverty, Housing and Transportation

	%65+ in poverty	%65+ housing need CMHC	Accessible Transit	
			Public	Number of buses
	<i>Below LICO- Stats Canada</i>	<i>> 30% of income toward housing CMHC</i>		
St. John's, NL	12.1%	14.9%	Yes	18 on the road
Charlottetown, PEI	17.0%	9.2%	Non-profit: Pat and the Elephant	7
Halifax, NS	12.5%	16.8%	Yes	35 (28 on the road)
Moncton, NB	13.8%	12.2%	Yes	4
Fredericton, NB	10.3%	11.3%	Yes	3 (2 on the road)
Quebec City, QC	17.8%	13.4%	Yes	15 owned by the city, 13 hired
Montreal, QC	18.4%	17.2%	Yes	86
Ottawa, ON	9.2%	13.0%	Yes	80-90
Toronto, ON	9.7%	20.1%	Yes	210
Winnipeg, MB	13.6%	9.0%	Yes	20
Saskatoon, SK	12.5%	18.1%	Yes	21 (19 on the road)
Calgary, AB	7.8%	16.0%	Yes	approximately 115 buses running on a busy day
Edmonton, AB	6.8%	16.0%	Yes	98+80
Vancouver, BC	15.5%	20.2%	Yes	119 service downtown core, 500 service Greater Vancouver
Victoria, BC	10.9%	14.9%	Yes	50



Some More Examples

- St.John's, Quebec City, Ottawa – you need to book 24 hours in advance for accessible transit.
- In Ottawa and Toronto, the wait time for social housing is up to five years and four years respectively.

Unmet health care needs - self-perceived	YES	Percent	Total
Age - (G)			
65 TO 69 YEARS	171046	9.2	1868297
70 TO 74 YEARS	95773	7.0	1366437
75 TO 79 YEARS	59276	6.4	931889
80 YEARS OR MORE	76395	6.8	1127713
N=	402490	7.6	5294335
Weight: Weights - Master			
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Conclusions

- AFCs as an operational model discounts or ignores altogether issues such as income inequalities, gender discrimination and racism among the older population in many communities.
- In practice, AFCs encourage local governments and seniors groups to focus on “low hanging fruit” – mainly cosmetic issues such as more park benches and landscaping but ignore the difficult issues that a significant and growing part of the older population face – inadequate housing, transportation challenges, poverty, lack of access of health services.
- Need to pay much more attention to the interactions among the needs of diverse older populations and the supply of services and infrastructure to create age-friendly communities.



Source: Age-friendly BC



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Thank You/Merci



谢谢

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